

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09595 091814Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 /009 W
-----009077 091819Z /45
P 091805Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0751
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS MEXICO 09595

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX (NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY GROUP)
SUBJECT: W/W: ASSISTANCE TO AMCITS

REF: STATE 136032

1. SENATOR STROM THURMOND'S OFFICE INTERESTED.
2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH GROUP, BEING SPONSORED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, SINCE MAY 28, THE DATE OF THEIR ACCIDENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SAN ANDRES TUXTLA, VERACRUZ. GROUP MEMBERS ARE DR. BJORN KJERFVE, HIS WIFE, MRS. LUCY KJERFVE, MR. JEFFREY PROEHL, MR. JEFFREY GREER, AND MISS FRIEDA MALYNN DRESCHER, OWNER OF VEHICLE AND TRAILER. DR. KJERFVE IS A SWEDISH CITIZEN, WHILE ALL OTHERS ARE U.S. CITIZENS.
3. VEHICLE AND TRAILER CONTAINING OCEANOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT, WAS BADLY DAMAGED WHEN IT WENT OFF ROAD DURING A HEAVY RAIN STORM, AND CRASHED INTO A ROADSIDE FENCE. MR. GREER, WHO WAS DRIVING AT TIME OF ACCIDENT, REPORTED THAT NO ONE WAS INJURED. GROUP THEN DECIDED TO LEAVE VEHICLE AND TRAILER BEHIND FOR REPAIRS, AND HIRED ANOTHER TRUCK TO HAUL EQUIPMENT TO BELIZIAN BORDER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 09595 091814Z

4. EMBASSY CONTACTED MISS DRESCHER'S INSURANCE COMPANY IN MEXICO CITY, SEGUROS LA COMERCIAL, REPORTED DETAILS OF ACCIDENT, AND WILL MAKE FOLLOW-UP CALL TO ENSURE THAT INSURANCE COMPANY TAKES PROPER ACTION CONCERNING REPAIR AND RETURN OF VEHICLE AND TRAILER TO OWNER.

5. GROUP ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES AT MEXICAN/BELIZIAN BORDER, WHEN MEXICAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WOULD NOT ALLOW EQUIPMENT TO PASS UNTIL A COPY OF ACCIDENT REPORT WAS PRESENTED. EMBASSY THEN MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE OFFICIAL ACCIDENT REPORT SENT BY BUS FROM VERACRUZ TO CHETUMAL.

6. ON JUNE 3, DR. KJERFVE INFORMED EMBASSY, BY CABLE, THAT ENTIRE GROUP AND EQUIPMENT HAD SAFELY ARRIVED IN BELIZE.

7. EMBASSY ADVISED GROUP TO CONTACT AMCON BELIZE IF FURTHER ASSISTANCE NECESSARY. GROUP PLANS TO STAY AT HOTEL MONTAN, 55 REGENT STREET, BELIZE CITY, AND LATER WILL BE AT THE PELICAN BEACH MOTEL, STAN CREEK. LUCEY

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